

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Frank's Casing Crew

Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana

Rapid Prototypes Assist Frank's Casing Crew in New Product Development

Client Profile:

Frank's Casing Crew is a multi-service tubular company that provides equipment and personnel to the oil and gas industry. The company has 18 offices in the United States and 28 international sites under its sister company, Frank's International. Frank's employs 400 people at the company headquarters in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Situation:

To stay on top of innovations in the oil and gas industry, Frank's chose to embark upon designing and building the world's first 1250 ton elevator and 1250 ton spider. "These two tools allow for deeper drilling where existing casing tools can no longer be safely utilized," said Special Operations Group Manager Jeremy Angelle. In order for Frank's to better explain the complex design of the machinery to potential manufacturers, Angelle needed a scaled down prototype. He called the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPOL), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

Using three dimensional drawings of the tools, MEPOL Project Director Rebecca Scherff was able to build a 4" x 6" x 1.5" prototype of the elevator. "Having the prototype in our engineering meetings worked out extremely well," said Angelle. "Even with the 3D drawings, some design elements are just easier to explain with a replica sitting right in front of us to touch and look at." With the development of the prototype, Frank's reduced its time to market by several months saving them approximately \$125,000. They have completed two 1250 elevator and spider units, both of which are in use in the Gulf of Mexico.

Results:

- * Realized \$125,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced time to market by 3 months.
- * Developed a new product.

Testimonial:

"One of the most important factors in staying competitive is reducing your time to market with new products. Working with Rebecca at MEPOL helped us achieve our goal by providing our parts in a very efficient and timely manner, which helped us communicate with machine shops more effectively while reducing costly errors in the machining process."

Jeremy Angelle, Special Operations Group Manager

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